

LIBRARY

HEALTH
17 OCT 52

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

Keswick
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29530106>

Keswick
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector.

Keswick Urban District Council.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1951, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961, of the Ministry of Health, dated 16th February, 1940, and the Registrar-General's Memorandum SD/54, received June, 1952, as directed.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres), 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1951) 4,797 (see page 4).

Number of inhabited houses (end 1951), according to rate books, 1,552.

Rateable Value, £36,814.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £142 11s. 5d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	47	31	16	} Live Birth Rate (R.-G.) 11·3 per 1,000 of the population.
	Illegitimate	5	5	0	
Still Births		2	2	0	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, 18·51.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Deaths	89	33	56	Crude Death Rate (R.-G.) 18·5. per 1,000 of estimated resident population.

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Childbirth) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	nil.
Other Puerperal Causes ...	0	nil.
	—	—
Total	0	nil.

Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 0

Death Rate „ „ „ „ (approx.) :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	„	...	nil.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	„	...	nil.
Illegitimate „ illegitimate	„	...	nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	0
„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	0
„ Cancer	...	13

KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1951.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 1,272.

Social conditions and local industries remain as hitherto.

Meteorological Conditions :—These are shown in a report by Mr. Tom Wilson, Official Observer to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry, and given at the end of this report.

POPULATION.

The population figure of 4,797 is given for the year 1951 by the Registrar-General and called by him the “ Home Population ” (i.e.—as in 1950—including members of the armed forces stationed in the area) ; on this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

N.B.—The population figure for 1950 was 4,680.

VITAL STATISTICS—BIRTHS.

LIVE-BIRTHS.—There were 52 Live Births (36 males and 16 females registered as belonging to the district ; of these 5 (all males) were illegitimate.

The Live Birth Rate was accordingly 10·8 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 53 births and a rate of 11·3 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Birth Rates, 1951—Cumberland	...	...	...	...	17·1
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	17·1
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	17·2
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15·5
Keswick Urban District	...	...	...	...	10·8

The 5 illegitimate births make the percentage of Illegitimate Live Births 9·6, as compared with 4 illegitimate births, with a percentage of 7·5 in 1950.

As regards Births and Deaths the Registrar-General has supplied Area Comparability Factors—these allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and are used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas. The factor for births is 1·00, the birth rate, therefore, remaining at 10·8.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1951.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						Male.		Females.	
ALL CAUSES ...						33	...	56	
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...				
2. Tuberculosis, Other	...	...	...	...	...				
3. Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...				
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...				
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...				
6. Meningo-coccal infections	...	...	...	...	...				
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...				
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...				
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...				
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	1	...		
12. „ „ breast	...	...	...	...	...		...	2	
13. Uterus	...	...	...	...	...		...	1	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	
15. Leuækmia, aleukoemia	...	...	...	...	...		...		
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...		...		
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	7	
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	2	
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	22	
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...		...	3	
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	...		
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...		...	1	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...		...		
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...		...		
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...		...		
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...		...		
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...		...		
31. Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...		...		
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...		...	1	
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...		...		
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...		...	1	
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...		...		
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—Total						—	...	—	
Legitimate						—	...	—	
Illegitimate						—	...	—	

STILL BIRTHS						Males.	Females.
LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	36	16
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	31	16
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	5	—
STILL BIRTHS	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	2	—
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—
POPULATION (for Births and Deaths)—1951—R.-G.)						...	4,797

STILL BIRTHS.—Two still births were registered, so that the Still Birth Rate, therefore, was 0·41 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0·21 in 1950. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0·36).

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births was 37·03, as compared with 18·51 in 1950.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Keswick was 89 (1950—83). This gives a crude death rate of 18·5 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 17·7 for the previous year.

The comparability factor given for adjusting the crude death rate (for the reasons explained under Births) is 0·79. The adjusted death rate for Keswick Urban District was, therefore, 14·61.

Comparisons of crude and adjusted death rates are shewn below :—

						Crude.	Adjusted.
Death Rates, 1951—Cumberland						13·2	—
Rural Districts of Cumberland						13·1	—
Urban Districts of Cumberland						13·2	—
England and Wales						12·5	—
Keswick Urban District						18·5	14·6

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

No death occurred among infants under one year of age, so that the Infantile Mortality Rate was nil per 1,000 births, as compared with one death and a rate of 18·8 in 1950.

The Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births, therefore, and the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births were both nil. These latter rates were 250 and nil for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1951 :—

Cumberland	...	...	...	...	...	34
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	...	35
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	...	32
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	29·6
Keswick Urban District	...	...	...	...	...	nil.

SENILE DEATH RATE.

65 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 73·03 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 74·7 for 1950.

Out of the 65 deaths :—

12 (8m. 4f.)	persons died between the ages of 65 and 70 years.
17 (6m. 11f.)	„ „ „ „ 70 and 75 years.
12 (3m. 9f.)	„ „ „ „ 75 and 80 years.
12 (2m. 10f.)	„ „ „ „ 80 and 85 years.
10 (4m. 6f.)	„ „ „ „ 85 and 90 years.
2 (f.)	„ „ at 92 and 94 years of age respectively.

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS, AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there were two inquests.

There were four “ Uncertified ” deaths.

Three Coroner's certificates were received of cases where a post-mortem examination had been made, but no inquest was held.

VIOLENCE.—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was 0·41 per 1,000 of the population in the Keswick Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accident, Other Violence and the Total Violence Deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates from each per 1,000 of the population, as compared with the previous year.

	Suicide.		Road Traffic Acc.		Other Violence excluding Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence.	
	1951.	1950.	1951.	1950.	1951.	1950.	1951.	1950.
Deaths ...	1	1	1	1	nil.	nil.	2	2
% of all causes	1·13	1·20	1·13	nil.	nil.	nil.	2·24	2·40
Death Rate per 1,000 population	·20	·21	·20	nil.	nil.	nil.	·41	·42

The two violence deaths during the year were :—1 asphyxia, due to suicide by strangulation (f. 81 yrs.) ; 1 fractured skull and brain injuries (f. 21 yrs.) due to being thrown off the back of a motor-cycle.

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 13 cases as follows :—

System.	Primary Organ.		Males.	Females.	Years.
Alimentary...	...	Oesophagus	—	1	76
	...	Stomach	1	2	57, 68, 86
	...	Colon	—	2	73, 79
	...	Rectum	1	—	66
Respiratory	...	Lung	1	—	53
Glandular ...	...	Breast	—	2	50, 51
Reproductive	...	Uterus	—	1	56
Other	...	Mouth	—	1	53
	...	Finger (melanoma)	1	—	51
			4	9	

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 2·7 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 10 deaths and a rate of 2·7 in 1950.

Approximately out of every 7 deaths of persons belonging to this district 1 was due to cancer (last year 1 in 8).

TUBERCULOSIS.

(Vide also page 14).

There were no deaths attributed to Tuberculosis :—

			Males.	Females.
Respiratory System	...	...	0	0
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	0	0

The Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate, therefore, was nil per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 2 deaths and a rate of 0·42 for 1950.

The same can be said for the death rate for Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. One Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ralph Lusher, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., being also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

Miss G. Robinson continued to act as assistant in the Surveyor's Office.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is the Authority responsible for this important public service, taking over in 1948. Under their comprehensive Ambulance Scheme for Cumberland, adequate provision has been made for this district.

Speaking generally, other particulars relating to Health Services (e.g., Hospitals, Nursing, Maternity, etc.) remain unchanged.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Following a report by the Surveyor an investigation was commenced which was designed, particularly, to provide more definite information regarding the consumption of water throughout the district. The yield from the various supplies was found to be adequate at all times.

The consumption of water was abnormally high and reached 450,000 gallons per diem during the height of the summer season and it is estimated that this figure is nearly 50 per cent. above the normal requirements for a district of this size and points to large scale leakage or waste. Efforts were (and are still being) made to trace the leakage but in so complicated a system, the Surveyor informs me, it has been most difficult to trace and isolate the various sections of pipe-line.

The main pipe from Millbeck was scraped in the winter thereby increasing the pressure to a minimum of 75 lbs. per sq. in. with consequent improvement in the branch mains.

Chlorination was continued during the year. Seven samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination ; of these, two from the Ormathwaite supply were unsatisfactory but on increasing the chlorination dose later samples proved satisfactory.

I am advised that, in view of the very soft character of the water and the liability of plumbo-solvency, lead pipes are not used. Galvanised iron and copper service pipes are used for domestic purposes.

With the exception of 8 houses at High Briery, where there is a standpipe, all premises have a piped supply.

WATER MAINS.—No major extension was made during the year.

Concrete-lined spun-iron pipes are used when new mains are laid, in order that incrustation may be prevented. This policy over the past twenty years has given much satisfaction ; the water, of course, is not affected.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major extension of the sewerage system was carried out.

At the Outfall Works.—The three 70 ft. diameter sprinkler filters were fixed with their new distributors satisfactorily but work on the proposed sludge beds and the replacement of worn out valves and fittings was outstanding at the year end. (The new valves and fittings required are, at the time of writing, still not to hand).

The sludge was again used by farmers and gardeners.

Closet Accommodation.—No change. (Plans were submitted to improve the eight High Briery Cottages by the installation of a water-carriage system to replace the out-of-date pail closets but no work has yet been commenced).

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

This service has continued as before. During the year, a second specially constructed Karrier Bantam motor wagon was purchased and the horse and cart were disposed of.

The Salvage of waste paper was continued and the paper collected, baled and transported to Langwathby Mills.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I would hereby gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance and friendly co-operation given to me by Mr. Ralph Lusher, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, in the making of this report. His summary under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, will be seen below.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926.

Premises inspected during the year	...	...	...	...	198
Nuisances or defects discovered	...	...	...	...	124
Do. do. remedied after informal notice	...	...	...	...	120
Do. do. do. statutory notice	...	...	...	...	2
Housing Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	94
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	30

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1951, and it will be seen that 27 premises were on the register, and 32 inspections by the Sanitary Inspector revealed 7 defects, all of which were remedied by the end of the year.

Premises.	Number.	Inspec- tions.	Defects Found.	Written Notices.	Defects Remedied.	Prose- cutions.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	9	15	3	3	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	18	17	4	4	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	27	32	7	7	7	0

(Section 1 refers to Cleanliness, 2 to Overcrowding, 3 Temperature, 4 Ventilation, 6 Drainage of Floors, and 7 Sanitary Conveniences).

Outworkers—nil.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Periodical Inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector. No action found necessary during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This Act came into force on 31st March, 1950, and superceded the Rats and Mice Destruction Act. Under the new Act full responsibility devolves upon the District Council as far as the Urban area is concerned.

Good work was undertaken by the Council employees by treatment as recommended. The sewers and refuse tip were treated several times during the year ; treatments were also carried out at 16 private houses and 4 business premises.

HOUSING.

The position regarding renovation and repair work generally remains difficult.

There were 12 new Council Houses completed and occupied during 1951 and a contract was let for the erection of a further six.

Three private enterprise houses were completed and occupied.

Four Licences were issued for the erection of private enterprise houses.

A number of Licences were issued for work in connection with existing houses at a total cost of £3,000.

No. 24 Stanger Street was converted into three separate flats during the year.

It is noted that 96 new permanent Council houses and 34 private enterprise permanent houses have been completed since the end of the war in 1945 up to 31st December, 1951.

HOUSING APPENDIX

(Ref. Circular 1728 Ministry of Health, 25th October, 1938).

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	152
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	170
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above (which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices : Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	104
--	-----

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There were fourteen registered milk sellers, six of these being producers and retailers, whose premises were in the Urban District. Inspections continued to be made periodically.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were 8 of such producer-retailers during 1951.

Messrs. Edwards and Bateman have licences for selling both T.T. and pasteurised milk bottled outside the Urban Area.

Five samples of milk retailed in the town were taken during 1951 by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted for laboratory examination (Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle), for the presence of Tubercle Baccilli ; all samples proved negative to Tubercle.

On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by veterinary officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

I am indebted to Mr. J. K. S. Elmslie, Divisional Inspector for that Authority, for the following return—a nil one—of particulars of animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, from premises registered in the Keswick Urban District during the year 1951 :—

Total number of animals slaughtered	...	...	...	0
Cows in milk	...	...	...	0
Other cows or heifers	...	...	...	0
Other bovine	...	...	...	0
Types of Disease found at post mortem :—				
Tuberculosis of udder	...	...	...	0
„ with emaciation	...	...	...	0
„ with chronic cough and showing definite clinical signs	...	...	...	0

The only milk (Tubercular Tested) under “ Special Designation ” produced in the Keswick Urban District was again by Mr. Martin Raven, High Hill Farm, who is also a large retailer.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The regular use of the two licensed Slaughter-Houses by the Ministry of Food ended on 12th August, 1950. After this date, dead meat was transported here from the Maryport abattoir.

The following is a brief summary of foodstuffs for which 70 certificates of unsoundness were issued by the Sanitary Inspector :—

84 lbs. of beef ; 40 lbs. of ham ; 35 lbs. of wet fish ; $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of lobsters ; 1 cwt. of butter ; 55 lbs. of frozen egg ; and 263 tins of meat and various foods (including vegetables and fruit).

BAKEHOUSES.—There are seven in existence.

As usual all these premises were periodically inspected.

Three informal notices requiring limewashing were readily complied with.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1951 in the Keswick Urban District, including Pulmonary and Other Forms of Tuberculosis was 11. Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough (vide post) the number was 8 (1950—6).

Three of the notifications were of Tuberculosis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1951.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases notified 1951 admitted to Hospital.	Deaths of cases notified in 1951
Measles	3 (Ages—4, 4 and 12 yrs.)	0	0
Scarlet Fever	5 (Ages—2, 2½, 5, 6 and 7 yrs.)	5	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary	{ Males ... 2 { Females ... 0	0 (San.) 0 „	0 0
Non-Pulmonary	{ Males ... 1 { Females ... 0	1 „ 0 „	0 0

Table showing monthly incidence of Notifiable Diseases, 1951 :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...								1				4	5
Measles ...							3						3
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary ...				1	1								2
Other Forms ...		1											1

From notifications received it is deduced that approximately one in every 533 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and the Tuberculosis Regulations. (Last year's figure, 1 in 788 and in 1928 it was 1 in 177).

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 5 cases of Scarlet Fever notified and removed to hospital with ensuing recovery. The case rate and death rate were respectively 1·04 and nil per 1,000 of the population (similarly, England and Wales, 1951—1·11 and 0·00).

DIPHTHERIA.—There were again no notifications of Diphtheria ; the case rates and death rates therefore, respectively, were nil, these rates for England and Wales (1951) being 0·02 and 0·00.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before (again entailing a considerable amount of unseen work). Most of the inoculations were given officially, by me, at the Crosthwaite Parish Room after advertising, etc., as previously.

During the year under review 1 elementary school child, 5 to 14 years, and 21 infants under 5 years were known to have been given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks), either by me or by their own private doctors.

68 children received a single re-inforcing dose (these are children who received the two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously).

The co-operation of the local medical practitioners, head teachers, the District Nurses and, particularly, that of the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

In this county and throughout the whole country the mortality and incidence of diphtheria continue to fall. In 1951 deaths in England and Wales numbered 34 against a yearly average of about 2,800 between 1930 and 1940. Notifications were under 2,000 compared with a yearly average of 55,000 in the same decade.

The following are figures for deaths and notifications for England and Wales since 1944 :—

Year.	Deaths.	Corrected Notifications.
1944	934	23,199
1945	722	18,596
1946	472	11,986
1947	244	5,609
1948	156	3,575
1949	84	1,890
1950	49	962
1951	34	699

Such a result with immunisation is of course excellent, but it is undoubtedly a fact that such success has in itself meant that fear of diphtheria has declined.

Sustained effort must continue to be made by all concerned to achieve the level of immunisation necessary among children generally and particularly in regard to infants under one year of age in the 0 to 5 years group.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—No notifications received again ; the case rate for this disease (including Puerperal Fever) was, therefore, nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births registered during the year, the same as 1950. The corresponding rate (1951) for England and Wales was 10·66.

Again no maternal death occurred—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternity Mortality Rate of nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births, the same as in 1950.

PNEUMONIA.—No notification was received ; one death was registered from Pneumonia (all forms).

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.—No notifications.

There were again no notifications of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and, similar to the previous year, there were none of Typhoid (including Para-Typhoid) Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 2 cases (both male) of Pulmonary were notified, and 1 (male) of Other Forms of Tuberculosis.

Two cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year (one a previously notified case).

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1951 :—

Age.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 8.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1951 was as follows :—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	...	14	7	21
Non-Pulmonary ...	...	5	2	7
All Cases	...	19	9	28

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Tract, and in an infectious state and employed in connection with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was somewhat prevalent in the early months of the year, and three deaths were attributed to this disease, so that the influenza death rate was 0·62 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0·64 in 1950. (The rate, 1951, for England and Wales, was 0·38).

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939).—There were three cases of Measles notified but none of Whooping Cough.

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notifications) were, therefore, 0·62 and nil per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 14·07 and 3·87 respectively, for all England and Wales.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough (as in the previous year), the death rates were, therefore, again nil per 1,000 of the population respectively, as compared with 0·01 and 0·01 for England and Wales, 1951.

There were no school closures due to epidemic diseases during the year.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION.

Height above sea level, 254 ft. Lat. 54° 36' N. Long. 3° 9' W.

RETURNS FOR 1951.

RAINFALL (49th YEAR).

SUNSHINE (49th Yr.)

Month.	Amount. Inches.	Days.	Greatest fall on one day.	Average 48 years.	Amount. Hours.	Days.	Aver. 48 yrs.
January	... 4.71	on 20	... 0.90	on 16th	... 6.12	... 23.6	on 10 ... 34.0
February	... 5.56	on 23	... 1.04	on 25th	... 4.63	... 42.3	on 21 ... 53.5
March	... 4.16	on 16	... 1.10	on 22nd	... 3.90	... 63.7	on 22 ... 100.1
April	... 4.84	on 21	... 1.26	on 3rd	... 3.39	... 151.6	on 28 ... 128.9
May	... 3.08	on 14	... 0.75	on 26th	... 3.19	... 178.6	on 24 ... 180.0
June	... 2.26	on 11	... 0.63	on 16th	... 3.26	... 214.5	on 25 ... 181.4
July	... 3.07	on 16	... 0.66	on 9th	... 4.14	... 151.9	on 25 ... 155.1
August	... 5.44	on 23	... 0.68	on 25th	... 5.07	... 110.1	on 23 ... 134.1
September	... 8.84	on 16	... 2.93	on 24th	... 4.93	... 109.3	on 26 ... 114.4
October	... 1.14	on 7	... 0.37	on 20th	... 6.21	... 94.6	on 27 ... 77.3
November	... 13.11	on 27	... 2.02	on 4th	... 5.61	... 34.9	on 20 ... 29.0
December	... 12.48	on 27	... 1.73	on 27th	... 6.54	... 21.5	on 11 ... 27.0
Totals	... 68.48	on 221	Average	57.6	1196.6	on 262	1199.5

TEMPERATURES.

HIGHEST MAXIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MINIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MINIMUM (on grass)	Nights Frost	Wind at Gale Force	Snow Lying
54.0 on 22nd	... 16.0 on 2nd	... 13.0 on 2nd	... 14	2	6
50.0 on 28th	... 29.0 on 10th	... 24.0 on 10th	... 11	—	4
55.0 on 22nd	... 39.0 on 26th	... 18.0 on 4th	... 19	—	3
77.0 on 24th	... 26.0 on 11th	... 21.0 on 11th	... 8	—	—
64.0 on 12th	... 30.0 on 11th	... 23.0 on 11th	... 5	1	—
75.0 on 4 & 5	... 38.0 on 1st	... 34.0 on 1st	... —	—	—
73.0 on 14th	... 43.0 on 29th	... 38.0 on 29th	... —	—	—
71.0 on 4th	... 43.0 on 17th	... 38.0 on 16, 17	... —	—	—
71.0 on 5th	... 38.0 on 21st	... 35.0 on 29th	... —	1	—
65.0 on 16th	... 26.0 on 23rd	... 23.0 on 23rd	... 1	—	—
56.0 on 23rd	... 26.0 on 26th	... 20.0 on 4th	... 3	2	—
54.0 on 7th	... 25.0 on 12th	... 18.0 on 11, 12	... 13	2	—
Totals			74	8	13

Month.	Calm.	WIND.				EARTH TEMPERATURES.				
		North Quad-rant.	South Quad-rant.	East Quad-rant.	West Quad-rant.	High-est 1ft.	Low-est 1ft.	High-est 4ft.	Low-est 4ft.	
January	...	12	0	8	1	10	42.3	33.0	41.1	41.0
February	...	11	1	6	2	8	38.5	35.8	41.3	40.3
March	...	11	5	9	3	3	42.0	35.0	42.0	41.5
April	...	1	7	9	3	10	49.0	38.0	43.8	41.3
May	...	4	7	5	12	3	54.0	42.1	48.0	44.0
June	...	12	2	9	3	4	61.5	55.1	53.0	48.0
July	...	7	2	12	0	10	63.1	59.3	56.3	52.0
August	...	10	4	12	0	5	64.0	57.0	58.0	56.3
September	...	8	0	13	3	6	61.0	54.9	56.9	55.6
October	...	16	1	7	5	2	55.5	54.3	55.5	51.4
November	...	11	2	6	3	8	49.0	42.2	52.4	49.3
December	...	1	6	10	1	13	48.5	32.0	49.0	45.5
Totals	...	104	37	106	36	82				

ABNORMAL PRECIPITATION

Nov. 2nd and 3rd, 1931	...	6.16 inches in 36 hours.
November 3rd, 1931	...	4.86 inches.
November 12th, 1938	...	3.37 inches.
November 4th, 1926	...	3.30 inches in 9½ hours.
December 24th, 1925	...	3.52 inches.
August 2nd, 1923	...	3.60 inches.
July 13th, 1932	...	2.56 inches in 5 hours.
December 2nd, 1902	...	3.12 inches.

SUNDRY NOTES.

Lightning observed, 6 days.

Thunder heard, 6 days.

Thunderstorm with precipitation, 6 days.

More than 1 inch of rain fell on 13 days.

More than 2 inches of rain fell on 2 days.

Warmest day, 77.0° on April 24th.

Coldest night, 13.0° on January 2nd.

THE WEATHER OF 1951.

- JANUARY The year opened under a mantle of snow. This was dispersed by rain which persisted until the 22nd. A fine spell followed with frost and occasional snow showers.
- FEBRUARY Brought heavy rain and falls of snow ; the latter lay on the hills and meadows until the 6th when two days of bright sunshine, with a warmer spell, gave springlike conditions. In the second half of the month the spring feeling departed, and succeeding days gave rain, snow, hail and sleet, yet the month closed with a smile.
- MARCH The departing smile of February lasted nearly to the end of the first week. The rest of the month gave cold, easterly winds, with frosty nights and heavy falls of snow.
- APRIL Anything but what we expect of spring, yet it gave us the warmest day of the year, 77.0° on the 24th. The first half was very wet, and the latter cold and dry. Sleet and hail were frequent, following hard after the two warm days.
- MAY Cold, owing to the persistent east winds. Practically every day gave us the "helm" at least some part of the daylight hours. There were plenty of fine, sunny days.
- JUNE A really good month. Fine, sunny days, not much rain. Showed an attempt to make good the deficiencies of a backward spring ; a gallant attempt.
- JULY Followed the example of June, but achieved nothing of outstanding merit.
- AUGUST Never to rely on ; in fact, enhanced its reputation. Never very wet, never long dry. A couple of nice thunderstorms added a little spice.
- SEPTEMBER A great disappointment ; plenty of rain. On the 24th by far the wettest day of the year with an accompanying gale. Yet, withal, there were many fine, sunny days.

OCTOBER What a halo will surround this month in the memories of all observant people. At last a really fine, dry month, plenty of sunshine. The feature of the month was the wonderful autumn tints which painted the hills, slopes, woods and valleys. Never, I feel sure, has such a spectacle been displayed with such brilliance.

Farmers revelled in the extraordinary weather and worked with such zest they gathered the result of their labours with ease and a good deal of satisfaction. Many worked themselves "out of jobs," and betook themselves off on holiday, to spend the result of their toils and the generosity of a national exchequer in hilarious rejoicings. Some took their wives.

NOVEMBER Rain, heavy and prolonged, a gale and floods ; isn't that enough.

DECEMBER More rain, hail and snow, the holiday period particularly noteworthy. Hail, snow, sleet, gales, floods, yet let us be thankful for a nice, sunny Christmas Day.
Good-bye, 1951, and thank you for October. We forgive the rest.

The year gave us some considerable falls of rain which would in the past have resulted in floods. Several of the falls were experienced when the level of Thirlmere was low. In consequence during abnormal falls, it was able to hold the water gathered from the watersheds. In December the water level at Thirlmere was high, causing the extra water to flow over the sill into the Greta. The flood conditions of this river was (in my opinion) the first real test of the work done by the River Drainage Board between Bassenthwaite and Derwentwater ; the getaway must be quicker, for the meadows near the town were not unduly flooded.

What may happen further down may yet be a problem, but not mine. We are grateful for the result at the Keswick end.

TOM WILSON,

Official Observer to Meteorological Office and Air Ministry.



